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Garrison Witness Disputes 2-Killer Theory

By Don McKee

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 14 (AP)—District Attorney Jim Garrison's own expert witness, called in an attempt to prove President Kennedy was killed in crossfire, testified at the Clay Shaw conspiracy trial today that evidence indicated the only shots that hit came from the rear.

Garrison's prosecutors, over repeated defense objections, ran the amateur movie of Kennedy's assassination for the fourth time in two days and questioned an FBI agent about it. Shaw, 55, is charged with conspiring to kill Kennedy.

Garrison contends Shaw was involved in a New Orleans-hatched plot to kill Kennedy and that the President was hit by bullets fired from different directions. The Warren Commission said it could find no credible evidence of a conspiracy and said the shots were fired from a single location.

Special agent Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, a document and photographic expert for the FBI, testified he had examined extensively and minutely the Abraham Zapruder film of the shooting in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

On direct examination, Shaneyfelt was not asked his opinion about direction of fire, but instead was asked about omissions in making certain lateral angle measurements—the purpose of which was not explained by Assistant District Attorney Alvin Oser.

But on cross-examination by defense attorney F. Irvin Dymond, Sheneyfelt testified he considered all evidence available.

Q. Based on your examination, have you found any photographic evidence to indicate that the shots that hit President Kennedy came from any direction other than his right rear?

A. I did not.

Shaneyfelt said he examined enlarged prints of film showing the fatal shot that exploded the right side of Kennedy's head.

"The fragments you see streaking through the air are going forward from a vertical line drawn through the President's head," he said. "My impression from that photograph is that the shot came from the rear."

Shaneyfelt said he did not take into consideration the movement of Kennedy's body at the instant of impact. In the amateur movie of the assassination shot, Kennedy's head appears to snap upwards, backward and to the left a leaning-forward position..

This is the film of which Garrison said in his opening statement to the jury: "You will be able to see him (Kennedy) fall backward as the fatal shot strikes him from the front—not the back."

Mrs. Philip Willis of Dallas, who said she witnessed the fatal shot, later offered testimony that contradicted Shaneyfelt's interpretation of the Zapruder film.

"On the third shot, his head exploded and went back to the left," she said.

Q. Did you see anything leave the President's head?

A. Yes. There seemed to be matter or something.

Q. Which direction did it go?

A. Back.

Mrs. Willis said the presidential limousine did not accelerate at the third shot. "As a matter of fact, they almost halted it," she testified. She said she was not called before the Warren Commission.

On direct examination of Shaneyfelt, the State went into considerable detail about computations and measurements in the FBI attempt to re-enact the slaying. At one point, Dymond protested that Oser was trying to impeach his own witness by asking why, in the re-enactment, the location of a bullet wound in Kennedy's back was calculated from the body, while a stand-in for former Gov. John Connally of Texas wore Connally's coat with the bullet hole in the coat being used as a point of reference.

Shaneyfelt said, "I don't know."

Connally, wounded in the assassination, and his wife are scheduled to testify Monday under subpoenaes signed Thursday by a Houston judge in response to a Louisiana subpoena.

"They are perfectly willing to to to New Orleans and give any material testimony," said Assistant District Attorney Neil McKay, who drew the subpoena order.